

FW: Urgency Ordinances re Ag Ponds and Reservoirs and Native trees, Meeting of July 15

Frank Mecham

Tue 7/12/2016 10:42 AM

To: cr_board_clerk Clerk Recorder <cr_board_clerk@co.slo.ca.us>;

1 attachment (476 KB)

Letter to Supervisors re tree and ag pond ordiances, July 2016.doc;

Vicki M. (Shelby) Fogleman
Legislative Assistant for
First District Supervisor Frank R. Mecham

email: yshelby@co.slo.ca.us

"Thinking a smile all the time will keep your face youthful" - Frank G. Burgess
"Wrinkles should merely indicate where smiles have been" - Mark Twain

From: Patricia Wilmore [mailto:pwilmore@pasowine.com]

Sent: Tuesday, July 12, 2016 10:26 AM

To: Lynn Compton <lcompton@co.slo.ca.us>; Frank Mecham <fmecham@co.slo.ca.us>; Debbie Arnold <darnold@co.slo.ca.us>; Bruce Gibson <bgibson@co.slo.ca.us>; Adam Hill <ahill@co.slo.ca.us>

Cc: James Bergman <jbergman@co.slo.ca.us>; Airlin Singewald <asingewald@co.slo.ca.us>; Lynda Auchinachie <lauchinachie@co.slo.ca.us>

Subject: RE: Urgency Ordinances re Ag Ponds and Reservoirs and Native trees, Meeting of July 15

Dear Chairperson Compton and Members of the Board,

Please find attached our comments on the proposed urgency ordinances. We understand that these may be posted online as well.

Thank you,
Patricia

Item No. 2
Meeting Date: July 15, 2016
Presented by: Patricia Wilmore
Rec'd prior to meeting & posted to web on: July 12, 2016

Patricia Wilmore
Government Affairs Coordinator
Paso Robles Wine Country Alliance
pwilmore@pasowine.com



July 12, 2016

San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors
County Government Center
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

**RE: Native Tree Interim Zoning/Urgency Ordinance
Agricultural Pond and Reservoir Interim Zoning/Urgency Ordinance
July 15, Special Meeting**

Dear Chairperson Compton and Members of the Board:

The Paso Robles Wine Country Alliance Government Affairs Committee met on July 11 to analyze and discuss the above referenced urgency ordinances. Simply put, the quick turnaround to prepare these ordinances has resulted in an ill-advised plan for agricultural ponds. The proposal for trees does address an existing gap in County regulations.

We flatly oppose the Agricultural Pond and Reservoir Interim Zoning/Urgency Ordinance based on a number of factors. First, Ag ponds are already highly regulated and subject to permitting. The urgency ordinance proposal does not enumerate the lengthy checklist currently existent to receive a permit. Further, it makes no effort to clearly define the agricultural terms and practices as they stand now related to ponds and reservoirs. In 2013, the Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District (RCD) produced a white paper prepared by engineering and hydrological experts which contains a host of guidelines regarding Ag ponds. This is the type of resource that is a factual and valuable reference and there was no time to research or consult such documents in the preparation of this ordinance.

The fact that one entity is not following the rules should not lead us to create more rules that are not based on science. With this ordinance, you would be memorializing erroneous concepts about how ponds and reservoirs are built and, importantly, how they are used. Further, it eliminates the option for an alternate review process (ARP) via the RCD. The requirements of the RCD process are very detailed. The root cause of the current problem is not the ARP. We have a situation that occurred in violation of existing regulations.

We agree that native tree protection is needed but it would be beneficial to have more time to develop a well thought out ordinance.

Thank you for your consideration of these points.

Sincerely,
Patricia Wilmore
Government Affairs Coordinator

PASO ROBLES WINE COUNTRY ALLIANCE ADDRESS

WEB pasowine.com



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